

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 11-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 11 on which claims 12-19 directly or indirectly depended has been cancelled. Amended claims 12-19 now depends directly or indirectly from independent claim 10 and are believed to be definite. The rejection is traversed.

Claims 1, 10, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 3,175,323 to Axelsson.

Axelsson teaches a fishing rod handle defining a relatively wide groove 25 forming a seat for a reel 26 (column 1, lines 63-64). The handgrip portion 12 of the handle is disposed at the proximal end of a rod shaft 44 but the rod shaft 44 does not have a rear portion extending past the handgrip portion 12 for allowing the reel 26 to be mounted thereto. The reel 26 is directly mounted to the handle, in front of the handgrip portion 12. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the reel seat and the adapter are mounted on a rear portion of the rod shaft which extends past the handgrip and is distanced rearwardly from said handgrip.

Moreover, the reel seat is a wide groove 25 (column 1, lines 63-64) defined in the handle, rearwardly of the end of the rod shaft 44. The reel 26 is secured in the wide groove 25 with an adapter 28 (or plunger) and a plunger 19 inserted into the handle and slidable therein. That teaches away from the present invention wherein the reel seat has an outer face on which the reel is securable over the rear portion of the rod shaft.

The reel 26 is secured in the wide groove 25 with an adapter 28 (or plunger) and a plunger 19 inserted into the handle and slidable therein. The user cannot disengage the reel 26 and reel seat 25 as a single unit from the adapter 28 and rod shaft 44 because the adapter 28 secures the reel 26 to the reel seat 25. Axelsson's reel seat 25 is merely a cutout portion defined in the handle and is thus an indissociable part thereof. This is contrary to the invention claimed in claims 1, 10, and 20 wherein the reel is removably securable to the outer face of the reel

seat without using the adapter. Therefore, the reel and the reel seat, as a single unit, are engageable and disengageable from the adapter.

The handle has a tubular passage in which the adapter 28 is slidably inserted. The reel seat 25 for receiving the reel 26 is defined in the prolongation of the tubular passage. This is contrary to the present invention in which the reel is mounted to the outer face of the reel seat engaged over the adapter, which in turn is secured over the rod shaft.

The securing means of Axelsson (i.e. the plunger 19 and the adapter 28) for mounting the reel 26 to the reel seat 25 are integrated to the handle and inserted into the tubular passages. Therefore, the reel cannot be mounted to the outer face of the reel seat. This is contrary to the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 10, and 20 are novel over Axelsson and 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3, 6-9, 11-12, and 16-19 depend on claims 1, 10, and 20 and are also believed to be novel.

Claims 1, 10, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 4,133,133 to Casset.

Casset teaches a reel holder for a fishing rod 10 including an adapter 1 having raised annular flanges 6, 7 at each end 2, 3 and a reel seat 13 mounted around the adapter 1 between the raised flanges 6, 7. The diameter of the raised flanges 6, 7 on the outer face of the adapter 1 is wider than the diameter of the cavity of the reel seat 13 in which the adapter 1 is inserted. Therefore, the reel seat 13 cannot be slidably removed from the adapter 1 since it is maintained thereon by the raised flanges 6, 7. The reel seat 13 cannot be slid on the adapter 1 between the raised flanges 6, 7. It is impossible to remove the reel 14 and reel seat 13 from the fly fishing rod 10 without removing the adapter 1. The adapter 1 and the reel seat 13 must be secured to and removed from the rod shaft 10 as a single unit. As mentioned at column 2, lines 51-57, "in order to position the second tubular element (reel seat 13) around the first tubular element 1 (adapter 1), either element 13 is positioned on element 1 before flanges 7 and 8, and the corresponding tapered surfaces, are formed or else one ends 2 and 3 of the

tubular element 1 is deformed until the end in question will entered the second tubular element 13". This is contrary to the present invention wherein the reel seat is slidably insertable over the adapter and removable therefrom. The diameter of the first end of the adapter is smaller than the inner diameter of the reel seat. The reel seat and the reel, as a single unit, can be removed from the rod while maintaining the adapter secured over the rod shaft.

The adapter 1 and the reel seat 13 are simultaneously secured to the rod shaft 10 as an assembly with a nut 17 to produce the tightening of each end, 3 and 2 respectively, of the adapter 1 on the rod 10. Pressure for securing the reel seat 13 in position on the adapter 1 is directly applied to the rod shaft 10, introducing the risks for breaking the rod shaft 10 when securing the reel seat 13 thereto. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the reel seat is secured to the rod with the engageable member of the reel seat engaging the engageable locking means of the adapter, without imparting stresses on the rod shaft.

The reel seat 13 is secured over the rod shaft 10 when the fisherman, or the user, screw the nut 17. This is contrary to the invention claimed in claims 1, 10, and 20 wherein the reel seat is secured over the adapter with the engagement of the engageable member and the engaging locking means when slidingly engaging the reel seat over the adapter.

The element 36, which is associated to the engageable member by the Examiner, is not designed to secure the reel seat 13 to the adapter 1. As mentioned by Casset in col. 1, lines 54-61, the element 36 is inserted into the slot 5 of the adapter 1 to prevent the rotation of the reel seat 13 relatively to the adapter 1 and the rod 10. The reel seat 13 is secured to the adapter 1 with nut 17 and between flanges 6, 7. That teaches away from the present invention wherein the reel seat over the adapter is releasably secured on the adapter when the engageable member of the reel seat engages the engaging locking means of the adapter without any direct contact or friction on the rod shaft.

Amended claims 1, 10, and 20 are patentable over the prior art and claims 2-6, 9, 12 to 16, and 19 depend from an allowable independent claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification and claims as amended render the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that persecution of this application may be expedited.

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Date: June 10, 2005**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

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